

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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P 151958Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2557
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02915

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, YO, IN, CU
SUBJECT: NAM: PRE-BELGRADE RUMBLES IN NEW YORK

1. OUR EFFORTS TO SOUND OUT NONALIGNED DELEGATIONS OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS BROUGHT GENERAL CONFIRMATION THAT THE BELGRADE MINISTERIAL IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SOME SERIOUS TALK ABOUT THE NATURE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MOMENT, WITH HEAVY ATTENTION TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF CUBA'S RADICAL INFLUENCES. WHILE MOST OF THE SIGNIFICANT NONALIGNED DELEGATES HAVE ALREADY DEPARTED NEW YORK FOR KHARTOUM AND OTHER PLACES, WE REVIEWED THE PROSPECTS FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE WITH NORWEGIAN DEPUTY PERM REP VRAALSEN, WHO HAS MADE AN INTENSIVE EFFORT TO CANVASS THE MOOD WITHIN THE NAM IN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS; INDIAN PERMREP JAIPAL; AND YUGOSLAV DEPUTY PERMREP MUJEZINOVIC.

2. VRAALSEN SAID HE FOUND TALK OF REACTION TO CUBA OPEN AND SHARP IN HIS CONTACTS WITH AFRICAN NONALIGNED. A SMALL HANDFUL, INCLUDING SOMALIA, SUDAN, ZAIRE AND ONE OR TWO FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICANS, ARE
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URGING AN EFFORT TO OUST CUBA FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE MOVEMENT, AS WE HAVE KNOWN FROM OTHER SOURCES. VRAALSEN SAID MOST OF HIS CONTACTS, HOWEVER, BELIEVE SUCH A DRASTIC MEASURE IS UNLIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO MOST OF THE MEMBERS AND THE DRIVE IS UNLIKELY TO SUSTAIN ANY MOMENTUM INTO BELGRADE.

3. INSTEAD, A NUMBER OF VRAALSEN'S CONTACTS GAVE HIM THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TENSION OVER CUBA IS LIKELY TO ARISE THROUGH THE DEBATE ON "WAYS AND MEANS FOR STRENGTHENING THE UNITY OF THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT AND IMPROVING ITS FUNCTIONING", AN AGENDA ITEM PREPARED BY THE YUGOSLAVS WITH INDIAN AND OTHER ASSISTANCE. IN ADDITION TO THE BASIC THEOLOGICAL DISPUTE ABOUT THE GOALS OF THE MOVEMENT, THERE IS INTENTION TO PRESS DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUNCTION OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU, WITH SOME WANTING TO ABOLISH IT ALTOGETHER AND OTHERS MERELY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIMIT AND CONTROL THE DEGREE OF DECISION-MAKING POWER THAT IS GIVEN OVER TO IT IN INTERSESSIONAL PERIODS. VRAALSEN ALSO BELIEVES THERE WILL BE DISCUSSION OF THE POWER OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP AND THE NATURE OF CONSENSUS THAT THE MOVEMENT RECOGNIZES (I.E., THE HANDLING OF RESERVATIONS IN NAM CONFERENCES).

4. AMBASSADOR JAIPAL TOLD LEONARD JULY 13 THAT HE IS BEING PUSHED FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE AT BELGRADE. HE FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE REASON FOR THIS PRESSURE IS TO ENSURE A STRONG, EXPERIENCED AND MODERATE CHAIR DURING THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE CUBAN FACTOR. HE FEELS SOME OBLIGATION TO LEND HIS LEADERSHIP TO THIS EFFORT, AND HIS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN WOULD RELIEVE HIM OF A CERTAIN INHIBITION THAT HE WOULD FEEL

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AS NATIONAL DELEGATE FROM INDIA. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE WOULD HAVE A MUCH EASIER PASSAGE THROUGH THE CONFERENCE IF HE DID NOT HAVE TO CARRY THE LEAD IN THESE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. JAIPAL SAID THE CONFERENCE WILL BE ORGANIZED WITH THE MAIN COMMITTEES MEETING SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE PLENARY, WHERE THE MINISTERS WILL BE MAKING THEIR BASIC STATEMENTS.

5. JAIPAL, OF COURSE, STRONGLY FEELS THAT CUBA'S RADICAL VIEW OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE NAM WOULD COMPLETELY DIVERT THE MOVEMENT FROM ITS ORIGINAL NONALIGNED GOALS. HE SUMMARIZED THE CUBAN INTERPRETATION AS INSISTING THAT THE NAM SHOULD RANGE ITSELF BASICALLY IN OPPOSITION TO THE WESTERN, SO-CALLED "IMPERIALIST" AND "COLONIALIST" STATES. IN THE CUBAN VIEW, THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE NAM SHOULD NEVER HAVE OCCASION TO CRITICIZE THE "SOCIALIST" STATES, BECAUSE THEY SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE NAM AND ARE ASSOCIATED CLOSELY WITH THE MOVEMENT. JAIPAL SAID INDIA CAN NEVER ACCEPT THIS DEFINITION OF THE MOVEMENT, AND NEITHER CAN YUGOSLAVIA--ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INDIA AND YUGOSLAVIA IN THIS REALM

OF NONALIGNED THEORY. JAIPAL ALSO THINKS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF THE RANK-AND-FILE MEMBERS AGREE THAT CUBA'S INFLUENCE MUST BE RESISTED IF THEIR NONALIGNED STATUS IS TO PROVIDE A VIABLE PLACE TO STAND IN THE POLITICS OF THE WORLD OVER THE LONG TERM.

6. ON THE COORDINATING BUREAU (NACB), JAIPAL SAID THE REFORMED BODY HAS NOT WORKED WELL AND MANY ARE CONSIDERING VARIOUS DEGREES OF REFORM AGAIN. INDIA BELIEVES THAT THE BUREAU SHOULD BE CONVERTED INTO A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. AS LONG AS IT IS SITED IN NEW YORK, WITH THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02915

NONALIGNED PERMREPS THE USUAL OPERATING MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU, THE MECHANICS OF ORGANIZING MEETINGS WOULD BE PERFECTLY FEASIBLE--CERTAINLY EASIER THAN PULLING TOGETHER THE KIND OF MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING THAT OCCURRED IN HAVANA. JAIPAL BELIEVES THAT A LIMITED MEMBERSHIP HAS NOT PROVED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE FORMAT FOR THE NACB--THE ACTIVE LEADERS OF THE MOVEMENT ARE INCLUDED, IT IS TRUE, BUT THEY WOULD BE THE ACTIVISTS IN A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AS WELL. THE PRINCIPAL EVIL THAT HAS DEVELOPED WITH THE LIMITED-MEMBERSHIP NACB IS THE DISTORTION OF NAM OBJECTIVES AND THE PREEMPTING OF NATIONAL ATTITUDES THROUGH THE STEAMROLLING TACTICS OF A SMALL RADICAL MINORITY. JAIPAL INDICATED THAT THEY INTENDED TO ARRANGE A FULL DISCUSSION OF THE NACB AT BELGRADE.

7. JAIPAL GENERALLY APPEARED TO AGREE WITH THE VIEWS

COLLECTED BY VRAALSEN ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN ALL-OUT
EFFORT TO OUST CUBA FROM MEMBERSHIP OR TO FORCE IT WO
WITHDRAW ITS INVITATION TO HOST THE 1979 SUMMIT. HE
EMPHASIZED THAT FEELINGS ARE RUNNING HIGH, HOWEVER, AND
ANTICIPATED THAT THE CRITICISM OF CUBA WOULD BE
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STRONG AT BELGRADE. CUBA NO DOUBT WILL MAINTAIN A
RELATIVELY COMPROMISING STANCE, AS IT DID FOR THE MOST
PART AT HAVANA, BUT THE CRITICISM OF CUBA AND THE
SOCIALIST AIMS COULD, IN JAIPAL'S VIEW, RESULT IN SOME
DECLINE IN CUBA'S POSITION--IF NOT CHANGES IN PLANS
FOR THE SUMMIT IN HAVANA.

8. IN A TALK WITH LEONARD JULY 13, MUJEZINOVIC CON-
FIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF TALK ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS.
HE SAID THE NACB WAS SCHEDULED TO HOLD A MEETING FRIDAY,
JULY 14, WHICH WOULD MAINLY DEAL WITH MATTERS RELATING
TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. HE
EXPECTED ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING TO BE LOW-LEVEL,
SINCE MOST OF THE PERMREPS HAD ALREADY DEPARTED NEW YORK.
MUJEZINOVIC DID NOT EXPECT ANY FUNDAMENTAL DEBATE
TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NACB, ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT ON AGENDA
AND OTHER DETAILS INEVITABLY RAISED THE BASIC ISSUES.
HE CONFIRMED YUGOSLAVIA'S CLOSE AGREEMENT WITH INDIA
AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED STATES ON THE DESIRED GOALS OF THE
MOVEMENT AND INDICATED THE DEGREE OF DETAILED CO-
OPERATION INTO WHICH THEY HAVE ENTERED IN AN EFFORT TO
CONTROL THE POLITICAL DEBATE AND BRING OFF A CONFERENCE
THAT WILL PROMOTE THE STRENGTH AND COHESION OF THE
MOVEMENT. LEONARD

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